

Testimony for Education Committee

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Imagine looking at a page in your book and putting all the words in a blender and mixing them around and around and around. And then pouring them back onto the page. That's what reading is like for me.

In school, I have learned lots of new things. As the years go by, learning new things is getting harder and harder for me.

I want to learn like a normal kid. I can learn. I want to be in my class with everyone else instead of being taken out every day for special classes in Reading. Most days, I am separated from my classmates twice a day.

I want to catch up to the other kids. I know I can. I believe in me. But I need someone to teach me how to read better. Then I won't be taken out of my class anymore.

Nothing could be better. Learning to read.

When I check out a book from the school library, my teacher asks me to read some of it aloud to her. When I don't read it very well, my teacher tells me, "Take that book home. You can't read it." This makes me feel sad. This makes me feel she doesn't believe in me. I believe in me.

I want to be able to have someone's encouragement. When people help me, my courage flows. But at school, I don't have encouragement. I am given little kid books. Those books don't interest me. I am very interested lots of books, but in school, that doesn't matter.

Because my reading level is low, I don't have choices in books that I would really enjoy. During reading time, all I do is kinda sit there. Either I sit there with no book or I have to read a little kid book or a picture book. It's embarrassing. All the other kids have chapter books, but I can't have one. How can I be taught without a book?

I really wish I could read chapter books. Everyone else reads during reading time, even my teacher.

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